

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The final Office Action dated December 7, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 10 and 16. Accordingly, claims 1-43 are currently pending, of which claims 21-43 have been withdrawn by virtue of the Restriction Requirement dated February 11, 2003. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim et al. (GB 2,343,012A) in view of Holmberg et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,731,216) or Byun et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,917,199); rejected claims 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim et al. in view of Holmberg et al. or Byun et al. and den Boer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,656,824). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claim 1 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 1 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "...a light shielding layer on the common electrode, the light shielding layer serving as a dielectric frame for the multi-domain and substantially surrounding each pixel region as well as the first and second sub-pixel regions... wherein the liquid crystal layer in the first sub-pixel region aligns differently from the liquid crystal layer in the second sub-pixel region when a voltage is applied between the pixel electrode and the common electrode." None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and claims 2-9, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

Claim 10 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 10 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "...a light shielding layer on the common electrode, the light shielding layer serving as a dielectric frame for the multi-domain and substantially surrounding each pixel region as well as the first and second sub-pixel regions... wherein the liquid crystal layer in the first sub-pixel region aligns differently from the liquid crystal layer in the second sub-pixel region when a voltage is applied between the pixel electrode and the common electrode." None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least

this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 10 and claims 11-15, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

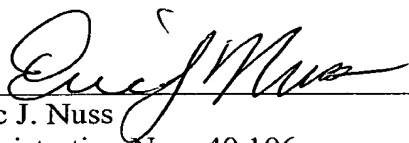
Claim 16 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 16 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "...a light shielding layer on the common electrode, the light shielding layer serving as a dielectric frame for the multi-domain and substantially surrounding each pixel region as well as the first and second sub-pixel regions... wherein the liquid crystal layer in the first sub-pixel region aligns differently from the liquid crystal layer in the second sub-pixel region when a voltage is applied between the pixel electrode and the common electrode." None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 16 and claims 17-20, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

Applicant believes the application is in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner deems that a telephone conversation would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 496-7500.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: February 22, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Eric J. Nuss
Registration No.: 40,106
MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP
1900 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006
Attorney for Applicant